

UPDATED NOTICE (January 22, 2003)

Due to the continuing security situation, process changes GAO implemented in late calendar year 2000—changes that may significantly affect the filing of bid protests and related documents—remain in effect. *This notice updates the one that appeared on our web site on January 9, 2002.*

- The delivery of mail from the United States Postal Service likely will be delayed while the mail is screened and processed. As a result, mail should not be used for time-sensitive filings.
- GAO couriers will continue to retrieve from the local postal facility USPS Express mail with meter strips or corporate accounts, priority mail with meter strips or permit indicia, and all registered mail.
- GAO will accept deliveries **only** from Federal Express and UPS.
- The filing window at GAO's headquarters will accept deliveries **only** from other government agencies, and **only** if delivered by government employees. GAO is **not** accepting packages from commercial courier services (e.g., bicycle couriers) or from any other non-government source. GAO employees **will not** meet couriers outside of the GAO building to accept packages.

For all parties to protests: Until the delivery situation changes, we recommend that you rely on the use of faxes as much as possible. We also recently have begun to accept protest-related filings by e-mail, sent to [Protests@gao.gov](mailto:Protests@gao.gov) (see the Legal Products section of our web site, [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov), for more information). We recommend that you discuss potential delivery problems with the GAO attorney responsible for the protest as well as with the other parties to the protest. Where the new limitations on delivery cause late delivery of documents, our Office will take that into account and will endeavor to accommodate the circumstances of all protest parties in this regard.

Instances may arise where, because of the current security procedures, the telephone call from GAO providing the contracting agency official notice that a protest has been filed is not made until after the 10th day after award (or the 5th day after a required debriefing), even when a protest reached GAO in a timely fashion. We request that, if that happens, the agency nonetheless impose a stay so that the delays caused by the new security procedures do not deprive protesters of meaningful relief. If problems arise in this regard, please raise them with the GAO attorney handling the case, the Assistant General Counsel, or me (my telephone number is 202/512-8219).

Your continuing understanding and cooperation are very much appreciated.

Daniel I. Gordon  
Associate General Counsel